

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 16 Apr 52

SUBJECT T/O and L of Polish Border guards (WOP)

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**SOURCE**

Organization of the Polish WOP

1. I learned the breakdown of WOP from orders, talks with other [redacted] and observation. The Ministry of Public Security (Ministerstwo Bezpieczenstwa Publicznego) is the direct superior of the WOP (Wojskowa Ochrona Pograniczna) headquarters. It is subdivided into 12 brigades throughout Poland. Each brigade has from four to eight battalions, depending upon the size and importance of the brigade area. The WOP battalion has from five to seven Guard Units (Straznicy), depending upon the importance and size of the battalion area. The Guard Unit is dependent upon the battalion for administration, supply, finance and operations. The GPK (Graniczny Punkt Kontrolny - Border Control Point), is subordinate to the brigade office of the Director of RGKO (Border Traffic and Border Problems) for operations, duty, and training; and to the battalion for pay, food, clothing, and weapons. A battalion can recommend the need for setting up a GPK unit; the brigade actually creates the GPK.

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25X1A

Table of Organization25X1X  
25X1X  
2.

[redacted] (Brygad) has the following actual T/O:

Guard Unit CO (Dowodca Straznicy) - Lt or Capt

Special Affairs Officer (Zastepca Dowodcy Straznicy dla Spraw Specjalnych albo spraw zwiadu) - M/Sgt

Sergeant of Guard Unit (Szeft Straznicy kapral sluzby czynnej) - Cpl or Sgt

Investigations NCO (Podoficer doskondzeniowy kapral kapral sluzby zawodowej) - regular army corporal who checks on the reliability of personnel

Signal Communications NCO (Podoficer Laczynosci kapral sluzby zawodowej)

Two squad leaders (Dowodca druzyny)

24 EM

Total: 30 EM (Zolnierzy albo szeregowcy), one officer

T/O Actually calls for:

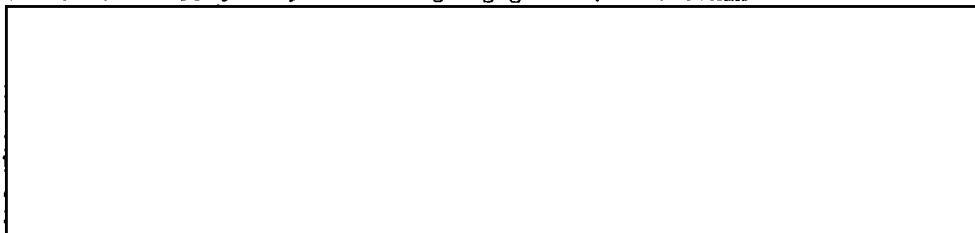
Three officers (one Capt, two Lts)

Nine NCOs

32 EM

Total: 41 EM, three officers

The T/O also calls for a political affairs officer (oficer or sergeant) - Zastepca Dowodcy Straznicy dla Spraw Politycznych; a supply NCO; a tracking-dog guide (Prozowodnik)

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3.

## (1) Transport

six horses - two for riding; four draft horses  
four bicycles

## (2) Functional duty aids

one tracking dog  
four guard dogs for night patrols

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(3) Weapons and Ammunition

<u>Actual</u>	<u>T/E Calls for</u>
1 TT 7.62 mm pistol (Polish made)	3
12 PPSH 7.62 mm SMGs, model 1941/M (Soviet made)	14
24 KBK (Krotki Karabin Kawaleryjski - short Cavalry carbine) 7.62 mm, model 1930/44 (Polish and Soviet made)	27
2 KBK 1891 (Polish and Soviet made)	0
1 RKM (Reczny Karabin Maszynowy) 7.62 mm Degtyarev LMG Model 44 (Soviet Made)	2
0 CKM (Ciezki Karabin Maszynowy) 7.62 mm Maxim HMG Model 1910 (Soviet made)	1
20 F-1 serrated defensive grenades (Soviet made)	20
20 RKh 42 (Reczny Granat Degtyarev - Degtyarev hand grenades), cylindrical offensive grenades (Soviet made)	20
1680 rounds PPSH 7.62 mm (Polish made) (Polish abbreviation is PM (Pistolet Maszynowy - Machine Pistol))	1960
1575 rounds KBK 7.62 mm (Polish made)	2640
7 flare pistols (Rakietnica) (three Soviet made; four German made)	9
120 rounds of flare ammunition (Rakiety) (Polish made)	Unknown

4.

Some of our ammunition boxes bore the letters PFB, which mean Polska Fabryka Broni - Polish Arms Factory. I heard, from an unidentified source, that this factory is at Radom Poland and that some PPSH (PM) SMGs, carbines and TT pistols are manufactured at the factory. [redacted] had no artillery or mortar shells, or bombs in its arms and ammunition warehouse.

Among the flare pistol cartridges on hand were red flares for use at night, red smoke flares for daytime use, and green, yellow and white flares. If a guard noticed anything wrong in the control area, a flare, usually a green one at the [redacted] was fired. If a border crosser was seen, one flare was fired as a signal and another flare was fired to give the direction of the escape.

5. Other equipment on hand is as follows:

<u>Actual</u>	
Five Polish made field glasses (Lornety) for daytime observation from heights	5
One Soviet made Adrianov compass (Kompas)	1
Six field telephones (Aparatow telefonicznych polowych), one US made, one German made, four Soviet made	8
One 10-drop telephone switchboard (Centrala telefoniczna - telephone central), Polish made	1
One Polish desk telephone (aparat telefoniczny jiejjski)	1

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6. The T/E for a Guard Unit is on an elastic rather than a fixed basis; i.e., even though there were only 30 EM in the [redacted] 53 pairs of service shoes were kept on hand, the extras being replacements for old or worn-out shoes. In WOP, officers and EM are issued clothing and field equipment at government expense and new issues are made periodically. Officers were issued a custom-made worsted summer uniform, a khaki wool and cotton uniform, and a gabardine dress uniform. The time allowed for wear of these uniforms is considered to be between one and two years. The clothing and field equipment of the [redacted] is as follows:

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On hand	Issue per soldier
62 cloth overcoats	2
62 cloth tunics	2
62 cloth trousers	2
53 pair, service shoes	1 pair
Unk pair, boots with heels	1 pair
30 pair gloves	1 pair
30 wool scarves	1
30 wool hoods	1
30 cotton jerkins	1
30 pair cotton trousers	1 pair
30 pair ear muffs	1 pair
40 flannel shirts	1
150 summer shirts	1
40 flannel drawers	1 pair
146 summer drawers	1 pair
30 four-cornered field caps	1
60 cloth caps	1
180 towels	1
121 sheets	2
128 pair foot wraps	2 pair
52 wool blankets	2
220 handkerchiefs	4
58 leather uniform belts	1
3 long sheepskin coats (issued only to guards)	
10 three-quarter length sheepskin coats (issued only in freezing weather)	
5 pair felt boots (issued only to guards in freezing weather)	

#### Storage of Equipment

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7. A one-story barracks building, which is the next to the last house on the left side of the road from [redacted] [redacted] sleeping and messing facilities for officers and EM, a guard room, a telephone switchboard, and a food supply sufficient for one month; as well as clothing (uniforms, field equipment, etc.), kitchen utensils, weapons and ammunition. The food and other supplies are stored in the attic and basement of the barracks.

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#### 82d WOP Bn, 8th WOP Brigade

8. The 82d Bn headquarters in Lesna (Marklissa) contains approximately 50 officers and EM. The remainder and larger part of the battalion is located in the Guard Units (Straznicy).

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The 81st and 82d Bns, 8th WOP Brigade, contain seven Guard Units each. Since each Guard Unit has approximately 44 officers and EN, the total T/O of the 8th WOP Brigade is approximately 1200, excluding GPK's (Graniczny Punkt Kontrolny - Border Control Point). Until January 1951, when the 30th WOP Bn (which belonged to the 8th WOP Brigade) was transferred to the Krośnice Brigade, the T/O of the 8th WOP Brigade was approximately 1500 officers and EN; ie, excluding the GPK's.

#### Offices

9. I was able to gain information on the T/O of the following 8th Brigade units from talks with officers at monthly meetings, from special bulletins [redacted] and from personal observation. These positions are the only ones known.

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- (a) Bn CO - 1st col or maj (usually a major).
- (b) Political Affairs Officer (Zastępca Dowódcy Batalionu do spraw politycznych - capt or 1st lt. Main functions: political indoctrination. The section also includes a propaganda officer (Officer propagandy) and a ZMP (Związek Młodzieży Polski - Union of Polish Youth) instructor.
- (c) Special Affairs Officer (Zastępca Dowódcy Batalionu do Spraw Specjalnych albo Zwiadu) - Also called chief of the 7th Section. Main functions: IBC control, border transport and document control. Cooperates closely with the security officer. Section contains a capt and two lts.
- (d) Executive Officer (Szeł Sztabu Zastępca Dowódcy Batalionu) - capt or maj. Office also includes two military training NCOs (Podoficerzy Cwiczenia Wojskowego); chief of classification (Szeł Klasyfikacji), m/sgt; a general administrative NCO (Podoficer Ogólnych Spraw), and a Sgt.
- (e) Security Officer (Officer Informacji) - capt or 1st lt. Functions: checks on political reliability, positive intelligence, counter intelligence and investigations. Assignments usually originate in Special Affairs Office. One other officer aids the security officer.
- (f) Bn Quartermaster (Kwatermistrz Batalionu) - capt. Main function: food and clothing supply of the battalion. The office also includes the following:
  - (1) Finance Officer (officer Finansowy) - 1st or 2d lt
  - (2) Veterinary instructor (Nauczyciel Weterynaryski-Instruktor) - 1st or 2d lt - treats horses
  - (3) Clothing Officer (Officer Umundurowania) - 1st or 2d lt
  - (4) Medical Instructor (Nauczyciel Sanitarny-Instruktor) - 1st or 2d lt - first aid for unit personnel

- (5) Transport of Motor NCO (Podoficer Transport-acyjny lub Motorowy)
- (6) Armorer Artificer NCO (Podoficer brozi) - cpl
- (7) Chief of Bn Signal Communications (Szef Łączności Batalionu) - 1st lt. This office also includes the following:
  - a. Platoon leader (Dowódca Plutonów - cpl or sgt) This office has charge of telephones, telephone lines and controls. All calls are in a code which changes each month; eg, CO of 10th Guard Unit calls to 82d Bn headquarters, "Tower 8 this is Kreda 10 calling." In this example Kreda 10 is the code name for the Guard Unit and Tower 8 is the code name for the battalion.
  - b. Cryptographic NCO (Kryptografista, Podoficer albo Szyfry Podoficer) - m/sgt. He encodes and decodes messages. All his work is regarded as secret and he is responsible only to brigade headquarters.
  - c. Investigations NCO (Podoficer Dochodzeniowy) - sgt. Checks the reliability of personnel.

I can give no T/E information about the 82d WOP Bn except that it contained two Willys jeeps and two old AIS trucks.

#### 8th WOP Brigade

10. I am not certain of how many WOP Brigades Poland has, but I believe that there are 13. I have never heard of a 13th Brigade. I have heard the Kłodzko (Glatz), Krakow, Szczecin (Stettin), Krosno, Luban (Luban), Chelm, Przemysl, Bialystok, Slupsk (Stolp), Elbing (Elblag), Ketrzyn, and Gdansk (Danzig) (or Gdynia) Brigades mentioned by name only. The Gdansk (or Gdynia) Brigade is a seaport WOP Brigade. I can give only the following offices of the 8th WOP Brigade T/O:
  - (a) CO - col
  - (b) Political Affairs Officer (Zastępca Dowódcy 8-ej Brygady WOP do Spraw Politycznych) - maj
  - (c) Director of Operations Section, or 1st Section (Kierownik Operacyjny albo 1-sza sekcja) - capt
  - (d) Director of Military Training, or 2d Section (Kierownik Ćwiczenia Bojowego albo 2-ga sekcja) - capt
  - (e) Director of Evidence (political reliability), or 4th Section (Kierownik Ewidencji albo 4-ta sekcja) - capt
  - (f) Director of Security Section, or 5th Section (Kierownik Informacji albo 5-ej sekcji) - capt
  - (g) Director of RGKG, or 6th Section (Kierownik Ruchu Granicznego i Konflikt Granicznego albo 6-ta sekcja - Director of Border Traffic and Border Problems or 6th Section) - 1st lt or capt

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- (n) Director of Special Affairs for 7th Section (Kierownik 7-go Referatu - Specjalnych Spraw albo Zwiadu) - major or capt
- (1) Chief of Security Section (Szef oddzialu Informacji) - capt
- (j) Chief of Staff (Executive Officer) (Szef Sztzbu) - maj
- (k) Party Evidence Officer (Officer Ewidencji Partyjnej) - 1st lt. Checks on party membership, party standing, background, etc.
- (1) Chief of Political Department (Szef Wydzialu Politycznego) - capt. Supervises political indoctrination.
11. The area secured by the 10th Guard Unit, 82d Bn, 8th WOP Brigade is from Stary Zawidow (old Seidenberg) to Tratow, a distance of 12 km and 400 m.
12. The CO of the 8th WOP Brigade, Col Eugene Buchwalow, is a Soviet officer.

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